

Edward W. “Ward” Brehm Biography

In May 2004, President Bush appointed Ward Brehm to the Board of the United States African Development Foundation. He was subsequently confirmed by the United States Senate, and a month later President Bush named Brehm Chairman of USADF based upon his extensive personal history and experience in Africa.

USADF is the only US Government agency capable of making direct investments into African enterprises - with the mission to assist the poor in Africa through business development and job creation. Brehm has provided USADF with a bold new vision that has helped attract the matching of American taxpayer funds by African nations. Brehm also has introduced direct market linkages to major American corporations such as General Mills, Target and Cargill.

Brehm’s experience also stretches into the diplomatic field, as he has represented America as part of two Presidential delegations to The Democratic Republic of Congo and Benin. He also has served as a delegate to the African Growth and Opportunity (AGO) forums in 2005 and 2006.

Brehm has been a bridge to bringing strong bipartisan support within the American government for USADF’s mission. He has brought leaders from both sides of the aisle together to unite in the fight against starvation, poverty and disease on the African continent. Using relationships built over many years, Brehm also has been personally involved in the peace and reconciliation efforts in Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, bringing a model of reconciliation based upon faith, friendship and common understanding.

As a humanitarian and outspoken “voice” for the poor, Brehm has traveled to Africa over 30 times since his first trip in 1993. He initiated the Windpump Project to bring clean water to remote areas. He has funded numerous ventures to help the poor help themselves. He has led teams of American businessmen and members of Congress to Africa, showing them firsthand both the poignant lessons and also the great needs of that remarkable yet deeply troubled continent.

In addition to helping facilitate high level meetings in African State Houses, Brehm has also gained invaluable insight by living amongst the African poor. He took a 6-day journey far from safety and his comfort zone along the Uganda/Kenya border with only his friend from the Pokot tribe as his guide. That journey became the subject of his second book, *White Man Walking*, published in 2003. His first book, *Life Through a Different Lens*, captured both the wonderful lessons as well as the great needs of Africa.

In his “civilian life,” Ward Brehm is the founder and Chairman of The Brehm Group, Inc. and Capstone Advisors Inc, two national insurance consulting firms based in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

He has been married to his wife, Kris, for 27 years, and they have three children: Andy, Michael and Sarah. He lives in Orono, Minnesota.